

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

keep them In the North, Moreover, most of the coolies who came South at that time had never before tilled the soil. The results were so unfortunate that there was a marked though short-lived swing back to Chinese labour.

In 1907 the Governor of Cochin-China proposed measures to the Hanoi Chamber of Agriculture for the transportation of Tonkinese labour. Rather naturally this bore no fruit, since the Tonkinese colonists had every reason to prevent an exodus of workers that would raise the price of labour still more in the North. The success of the Javanese woAers, until the War, allowed the problem to remain in abeyance. At the same time* however, a similar attempt was made in Annam to give such immigrants lands in the South, which might establish them permanently in the country. The Annamite government, which was charged with hiring this labour, proceeded to get rid of all the undesirable elements from its communes. The results were disastrous: crime iourished with abandon. Only about twenty remained out of the entire group. Feeling that the mistake lay in enlisting the services of the native government, which had no interest in the success of the enterprise* the planters oi^anized the next attempt themselves. They use the isolated and ineffective efforts of native agents who a commisaoii for each labourer hired. The Tonkinese who came very oubappy: very different climatic conditions and a feeling of **from** their homes Induced their wholesale flight, with the of **all** the *immey* they had received in advance.

1910 the problem took on a more acute form with the sudden of rubber colonization. Attention became centred now

